GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1992
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give autonomy to the co-operative societies of the States in order to improve their condition;

(b) the total number of co-operative societies operating in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute co-operative society in every village;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any economic package is proposed to be given to the co-operative societies; and

(f) if so, the procedure proposed/likely to be adopted in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Central Government has formulated a new National Policy on Co-operatives aimed at all round development of the co-operatives and their economic viability. The focus of the National Policy is on professionalisation of co-operatives and democratisation of their management to facilitate their development as self-reliant and economically viable organisations providing their members improved access in various economic spheres, safeguarding them against market imperfections and bestowing on them the advantages of collective action. The Government, as a facilitator, will provide necessary support, encouragement and assistance to co-operative societies to ensure that they work as autonomous, self-reliant and viable economic enterprises.

(b): There are about 5.39 lakhs cooperative societies operating in the country.

(c): No, sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): Pursuant to the announcement made in the Union Budget for the year 2004-05, Ministry of Finance has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan for suggesting measures required for improving the efficiency and viability of Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions. The Task Force is expected to submit its recommendations soon.